

SUCCESS STORY

Building the Foundations for a Growing Industry



Photo: CHF International

Haiti's garment industry is providing opportunities to improve the lives of thousands by increasing job skills and enabling Haitians to earn more.



Photo: CHF International

The USAID-funded Haiti Apparel Center promotes economic recovery and long-term growth and helps Haiti tap into the tremendous potential of the garment industry.

Rejuvenating Haiti's Garment Industry

USAID's economic growth programs are designed to facilitate trade, rebuild the private sector, increase incomes, and reduce corruption. They also work to strengthen financial and business development services for micro, small, and medium enterprises; create short- and long-term job opportunities; and improve youth workforce skills that will lay the groundwork for future growth. USAID is promoting economic opportunity in Haiti through a new training facility – the Haiti Apparel Center (HAC).

This center, implemented by USAID partner CHF International-Haiti, is part of a four-year, \$104.8 million USAID-designed and -financed job-creation initiative. To help meet the need for skilled workers in Haiti's garment industry, the HAC will train more than 2,000 professionals per year. This effort is key for Haiti to grow its private sector workforce.

The more than 6,000-square-meter HAC facility was provided by the Government of Haiti and renovated and operated by USAID partner CHF International-Haiti. It is located in the SONAPI industrial park – minutes from the garment factories in and around Port-au-Prince and close to workers' residential neighborhoods.

Providing Opportunities to People Living with HIV/AIDS

The HAC is also giving Haitians living with HIV/AIDS a chance at vocational training and a job in a country where HIV/AIDS infection carries a stigma. Through the PEPFAR program (the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), almost one-fifth of the workers trained to date at the HAC are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Haitian Economic Lift Program (HELP) Act

The creation of the Haiti Apparel Center will allow Haiti to maximize the benefits of the Haitian Economic Lift Program (HELP) Act, a public law passed in May 2010 to improve U.S. market access for Haitian apparel exports after the earthquake. The HELP Act, which has been widely supported by Congress, significantly expands Haiti's trade preferences to the U.S. It also promotes investment in Haiti and supports the rebuilding of the garment sector, which was significantly damaged over the years due to political unrest and more recently by the earthquake.

Through the Haiti Apparel Center and other economic growth programs, USAID and our partners are helping Haiti build a strong, prosperous economy.